Attorney's Docket No.: 07039-247001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mark Espy et al.
Serial No. : 09/945,203
Filed : August 31, 2001
Title : DETECTION OF VARICELLA-ZOSTER VIRUS

Art Unit : 1645
Examiner : Unknown

BOX MISSING PARTS
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows.

In the Specification:

Please add the enclosed paper copy of the Sequence Listing to the application following the Oath/Declaration.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 27, with the following paragraph:

--The LightCycler™ instrument can amplify target nucleic acids within about 30-40 min and monitors the development of PCR product by fluorescence assay after each cycling step (amplification and hybridization). All samples were amplified by LightCycler™ PCR with primers directed to both gene 28 and gene 29. PCR primers for detection of VZV DNA using gene 28 were designed using the OLIGO program and had the following sequences: sense, 5'-GAC AAT ATC ATA TAC ATG GAA TGT G-3' (SEQ ID NO:1); antisense, 5'-GCG GTA GTA ACA GAG AAT TTC TT-3' (SEQ ID NO:2); and probes 5'-CGA AAA TCC AGA ATC GGA ACT TCT T-fluorescein-3' (SEQ ID NO:3) and 5'-Red 640-CCA TTA CAG TAA ACT TTA GGC GGT C-phosphate-3' (SEQ ID NO:4). Amplification of VZV using such primers directed toward gene 28 generated a 282 bp amplification product (Saverbrei et al., 1999, *J. Clin. Virol.*, 14:31-6). A PCR master mix (see Espy et al., 2000, *J. Clin. Microbiol.*, 38:795-9) was

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

December 11, 2001
Date of Deposit

Signature

Jill Hasso
Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate